

From: "Linda Russell \l (lrssell8)" <lrssell8@memphis.edu>
To: "William Gibbons (wgibbons)" <wgibbons@memphis.edu>
Date: 1/29/2018 12:47:53 PM
Subject: Fwd: release for approval
Attachments: image001.jpg
image002.jpg
image003.jpg
image004.jpg
ATT00001.htm
ATT00002.htm
ATT00003.htm
ATT00004.htm
JANUARY 2018 - January 2018 Media Release-Crime Stats.docx
ATT00005.htm

Bill,

I'm checking emails for the first time since the work day Friday. Tammy approved it Friday night.

I just talked with Sam and I'll try to talk her through sending it out.

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Linda Russell, Vice President
Communications & Development Memphis Shelby Crime Commission
600 Jefferson Ave., 4th Floor
Memphis, TN 38205

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Chuck Gallina (cgallina)" <Chuck.Gallina@memphis.edu>
Date: January 26, 2018 at 9:49:39 PM CST
To: "Linda Russell (lrssell8)" <lrssell8@memphis.edu>
Subject: Fwd: release for approval

Linda,

Tammy approved this release with the changes.

Thanks ...

Chuck

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Chuck Gallina (cgallina)" <Chuck.Gallina@memphis.edu>
Date: January 26, 2018 at 2:41:30 PM CST
To: "Tammy L Hedges (thedges)" <thedges@memphis.edu>
Subject: release for approval

Tammy,

Here is the crime release from Linda Russell for your approval. The changes are highlighted and I have attached the full release. Thanks ...

Chuck

MURDERS DOWN IN 2017; ROBBERIES AND AGGRAVATED ASSAULTS UP

MEMPHIS, Tenn. – The murder rate in Memphis/Shelby County dropped significantly in 2017 compared to 2016, according to preliminary figures from the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI) released today by the University of Memphis Public Safety Institute and the Memphis Shelby Crime Commission.

The preliminary figures show a 15.6 percent drop in the murder rate countywide and a 10 percent drop within the city of Memphis.

Among all major violent crimes (murders, rapes, robberies and aggravated assaults), the biggest jump was in the aggravated assault category, with a 9.3 percent increase both countywide and in Memphis. In addition, the robbery rate increased 7.4 percent countywide and 8.4 percent in Memphis. The sheer volume of reported aggravated assault and robbery incidents resulted in an increase in the overall major violent crime rate of 7.9 percent countywide and 8.3 percent in Memphis.

Among all major property crimes (burglaries, auto thefts and other felony thefts), the largest increase was in the auto theft category, with a 20.4 percent increase in all of Shelby County and a 23.9 percent increase in Memphis compared to 2016. (Reported burglaries remained fairly steady, with an increase of less than 1 percent).

The rate of reported domestic violence incidents went up compared to 2016 – 2.7 percent in the entire county and 4.1 percent in Memphis.

The overall crime rate measures 54 different categories of crime tracked by the TBI. Countywide in 2017, the overall crime rate was up 6 percent countywide and 6.3 percent in Memphis compared to 2016.

In all key categories (major violent crime, major property crime, domestic violence and overall crime), 2017 rates for both Shelby County and Memphis were below the 2006 rates, which is the baseline year used by the Crime Commission because the first Operation: Safe Community plan was launched in 2007.

"The drop in murders is encouraging. The overall level of violence remains unacceptable. Implementation of a number of key steps this year in the Operation: Safe Community crime plan can help drive down the level of violence," said Bill Gibbons, president of the Crime Commission and executive director of the Public Safety Institute.

"Parts of the Operation: Safe Community plan that we expect to be implemented this year include an increase in law enforcement officers to deploy in a data-driven manner, expansion of the Multi-agency Gang Unit, and the violence intervention or focused deterrence initiative patterned after successful efforts in other cities such as Boston," said District Attorney Amy Weirich.

Weirich chairs the Operation: Safe Community crime plan, the implementation of which is spearheaded by the Crime Commission.

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About the Crime Statistics: In measuring overall crime rates and trends, the Memphis Shelby Crime Commission and the Public Safety Institute use data reported by local enforcement agencies to the Tennessee Incident Based Reporting System (TIBRS), which was developed and is maintained by the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation. An incident is defined in TIBRS as one or more offenses committed by the same offender or group of offenders acting in concert, at the same time and place. Reported major violent crime and domestic violence offenses, however, uniquely refer to a victim count versus an incident count. All rates are calculated based on per 100,000 population.

About the Memphis Shelby Crime Commission (www.memphiscrime.org): Memphis Shelby Crime Commission is an independent, non-profit 501(c) (3) organization that quarterback the work of the Operation: Safe Community (OSC) plan and its partners. It is funded through the generous contributions of many private sector donors. Ben Adams, CEO of Baker Donelson law firm, serves as chair of the board, and Bill Gibbons serves as president of the Commission.

About Operation: Safe Community (www.operationsafecommunity.org): Launched in 2007, Operation: Safe Community (OSC), spearheaded by the Memphis Shelby Crime Commission, is a community-based crime reduction initiative. Operation: Safe Community is chaired by Shelby County District Attorney General Amy Weirich.

About the Public Safety Institute (www.memphis.edu/psi/): The Public Safety Institute of the University of Memphis is an interdisciplinary part of the University community committed to identifying and advancing best practices in the field of public safety. It is housed in the School of Urban Affairs and Public Policy. Bill Gibbons serves as executive director.

Chuck Gallina
Director, Media and Public Relations
